

The Sacred Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶



✧ 2

story: ISAO MIURA

art: KOTARO YAMADA



The Sacred Blacksmith
聖剣の刀鍛冶 2



Volume 2

*Art by
Kotaro Yamada*

*Story by
Isao Miura*

*Character Design by
Luna*

登場人物紹介 Character



Luke Ainsworth

ルーク・エインズワース

A proficient swordsman who uses an unusual blade called a "katana." Pessimistic and world-weary, he runs his own smithy.



Cecily Campbell

セシリー・キャンベル

A young lady knight who is part of the Knight Guard, charged with defending the independent trade city of Housman. Ex-nobility, she has a strong sense of justice.



Aria

アリア

The "Demon Blade." She is part of the auction goods that the bandit gang captured by Cecily and Luke was after.



Lisa

リサ

Luke's assistant, who lives and works at his smithy. Innocent and carefree, she loves talking with everyone.



other characters

Hannibal Quasar

ハンニバル・クエイサー

Captain of the Third District Knight Guard, and Cecily's commander.

These are the
characters
introduced so far...



LUKE...
THANK
YOU!

Though terrified at first by her encounter with a demon, Luke's actions give Cecily the courage to face and defeat the monster. Impressed by her bravery, Luke swears to forge a sword for her.



NOW,
LEAVE
THE
REST OF
THIS TO
ME!



SWALLOW
IT.

SWALLOW
IT.

SWALLOW
IT.

SWALLOW
IT.

SWALLOW
IT.

SWALLOW
IT.

IS IT
DEATH
COME TO
COLLECT
ME?

WHO IS
THIS
MAN...?



THAT
YOU
GO



Forty-four years ago, the terrible "Valbanil War" ravaged the continent, due to the widespread use of "Demon Facts." Now, decades of peace later, young knight and ex-nobility, Cecily Campbell meets the mysterious blacksmith, Luke Ainsworth.



Cecily is entranced by the odd blade that Luke wields, a "katana." Wanting him to make one for her, she invites Luke and Lisa to join her on an excursion to capture bandits, to see if she is worthy to own one herself. But what their excursion finds isn't bandits, but inhumans and demons.



I AM A
MEMBER
OF THE
KNIGHTS
ORDER.
I HAVE
BEEN
TRAINED
TO
FIGHT
DEMONS.

MY
NAME
IS
CECILY
CAMPBELL.



HE
HAS
NALLY
DIED



DO
NOT
WASTE
YOUR
TIME
ON
THIS
TRIFLE.

The Sacred Blacksmith

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VOLUME 2



story by Isao Miura

art by Kotaro Yamada

Character
Design Luna

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THE SACRED BLACKSMITH VOLUME 2

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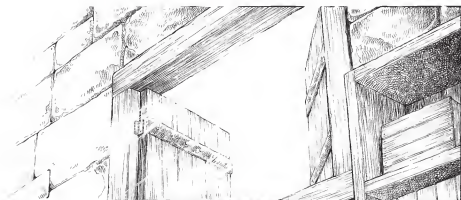


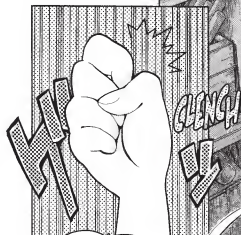
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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from **right to left**, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



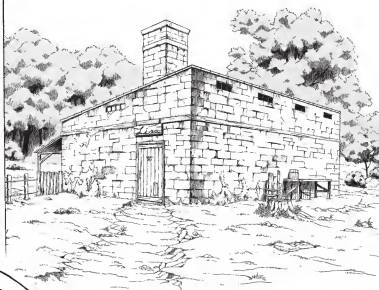




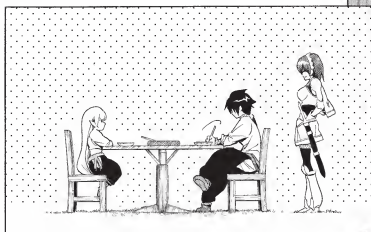
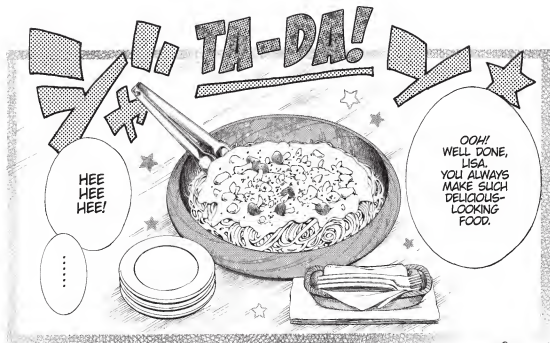
OKAY~!
IT'S TIME
TO GO AND
WORK MY
HARDEST
FOR
LUKE!



Chapter 4 *Girl*







OKAY,
THAT'S
TOO
BLUNT!

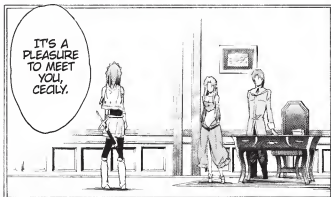
WELL-?



THIS
IS
ARIA.

I'VE BEEN
ASSIGNED
AS HER
GUARD FOR
A TIME.

I'M SO
PLEASED
TO MEET
YOU!



IT'S A
PLEASURE
TO MEET
YOU,
CECILY.

WELL...
YOU SEE,
I WAS
CALLED TO
THE
MAYOR'S
OFFICE...

YOU
HAVE TO
GUARD
HER?



MAYOR
HOUSMAN...



I WOULD
LIKE TO
REQUEST
YOUR
SERVICES AS
A GUARD.

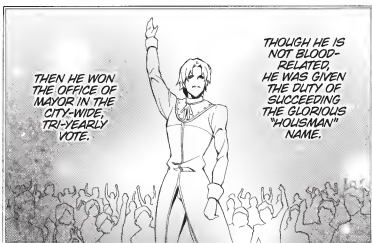
I AM HUGO
HOUSMAN,
THE MAYOR
OF
HOUSMAN.

INDEPENDENT-TRADE-CITY MAYOR
HUGO HOUSMAN



AS YOU
KNOW...

AND NOW HE
IS PERSONALLY
MAKING A
REQUEST OF
ME...?



THEN HE WON
THE OFFICE OF
MAYOR IN THE
CITY-WIDE,
TRI-YEARLY
VOTE.

THOUGH HE IS
NOT BLOOD-
RELATED,
HE WAS GIVEN
THE DUTY OF
SUCCEEDING
THE GLORIOUS
"HOUSMAN"
NAME.



THE MARKET
MUST BE
LIVELY AND
EXCITING TO
MAKE IT A
SUCCESS.

FOR AN
INDEPENDENT
TRADE CITY,
THESE
MARKETS ARE
AN IMPORTANT
SOURCE OF
REVENUE.

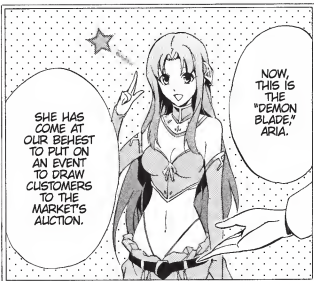
RIGHT NOW,
THE CITY IS
PREPARING FOR
THE MARKET,
A FESTIVAL WHICH
HAPPENS ONLY
ONCE EVERY
THREE MONTHS.



THE
"DEMON
BLADE"...?

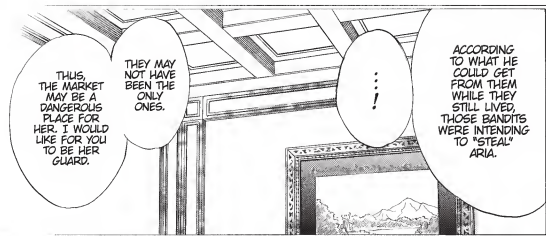


CAPTAIN
HANNIBAL
QUESTIONED
THOSE
BANDITS YOU
CAPTURED.



SHE HAS
COME AT
OUR BEHEST
TO PUT ON
AN EVENT
TO DRAW
CUSTOMERS
TO THE
MARKET'S
AUCTION.

NOW,
THIS IS
THE
"DEMON
BLADE,"
ARIA.

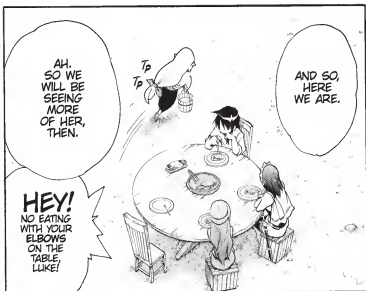
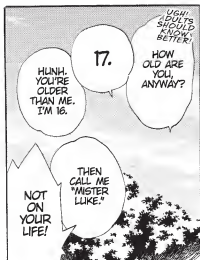


THUS,
THE MARKET
MAY BE A
DANGEROUS
PLACE FOR
HER. I WOULD
LIKE FOR YOU
TO BE HER
GUARD.

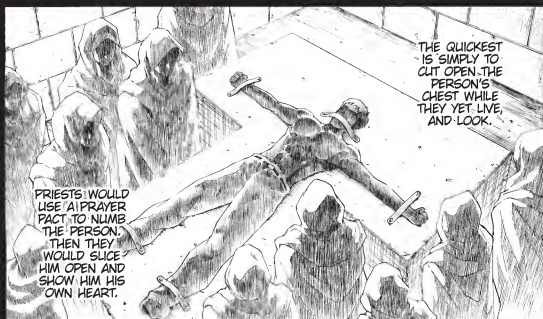
THEY MAY
NOT HAVE
BEEN THE
ONLY
ONES.

...

ACCORDING
TO WHAT HE
COULD GET
FROM THEM
WHILE THEY
STILL LIVED,
THOSE BANDITS
WERE INTENDING
TO "STEAL"
ARIA.







THE QUICKEST
IS SIMPLY TO
CLIT OPEN THE
PERSON'S
CHEST WHILE
THEY YET LIVE,
AND LOOK.

PRIESTS WOULD
USE A PRAYER
PACT TO NUMB
THE PERSON.
THEN THEY
WOULD SLICE
HIM OPEN AND
SHOW HIM HIS
OWN HEART.

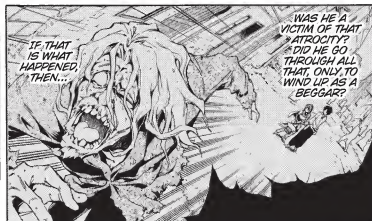


IT WAS NOT AN
UNUSUAL THING
BACK IN THE DAYS
OF THE WAR.
NOT ONCE THE
KINGDOMS
REALIZED HOW
USEFUL DEMON
PACTS COULD BE.

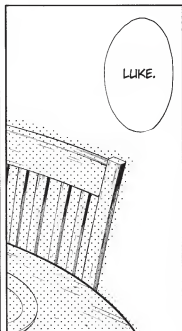


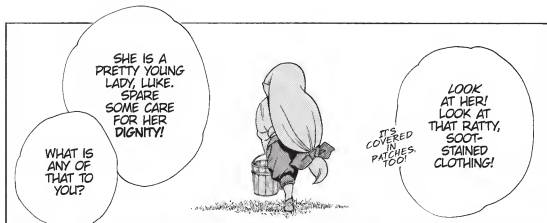
OF COURSE,
THEY TOLD THE
PUBLIC THEY
ONLY EVER TOOK
"VOLUNTEERS."

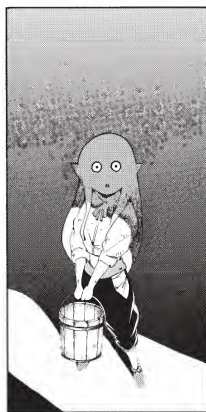
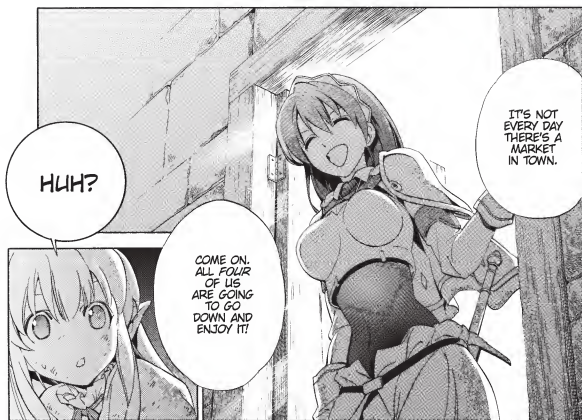
TO SECURE
MORE OF THEM,
THEY WOULD
TAKE SOLDIERS,
CLIT THEM OPEN,
AND FORCE
THEM TO READ
THE WORDS
ON THEIR
HEARTS.

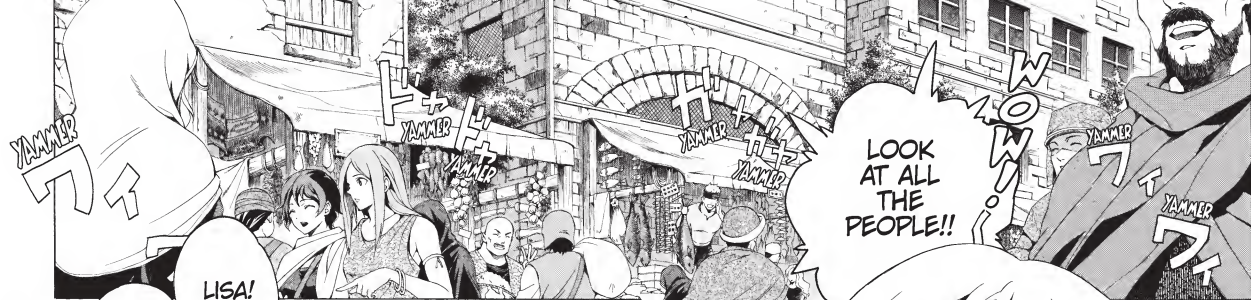












LOOK!
LOOK!
THAT ONE
OVER
THERE JUST
SWALLOWED
A SWORD!!



LOOK,
LUKE!

THAT
STREET
PERFORMER
IS
AMAZING!

CAN I
HAVE
SOME?

POTATO
DUMPLINGS
AND
HONEY-
ROASTED
NUTS!



THE MAYOR
HAS GIVEN
ME A BIG
ALLOWANCE
FOR TODAY.

EAT
WHATEVER
YOU LIKE!

I'M
GOING
TO
EAT
ONE
OF
EVERY
THING!

YAAA!



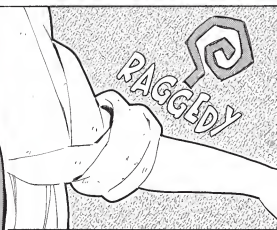


THAT'S
NOT RIGHT
FOR A
PRETTY
GIRL LIKE
YOU.

I NOTICED
YOU ARE
ALWAYS
WEARING
YOUR WORK
CLOTHES.



RAGGEDY



BUT IS IT
REALLY
OKAY FOR
ME TO
DRESS UP
LIKE
NORMAL
GIRLS?



IT ISN'T LIKE
YOU AREN'T
INTERESTED
IN NICE
CLOTHES,
RIGHT?



I...
I DO LIKE
THEM,
YEAH...





YAAAYAY!

EH?
EH?
★

JUST BEING
ABLE TO WORK
FOR LUKE IS
MORE THAN
ENOUGH
FOR ME,
BUT TO GET
THIS TOO...?

HUH?
THREE?!

AH,
THREE
YEARS
OLD,
EH...?

HMM.
SOMEWHERE
AROUND
THREE,
I THINK.

ME?

LET'S
SEE...
WHAT
ELSE
WOULD
LOOK
CUTE ON
YOU?

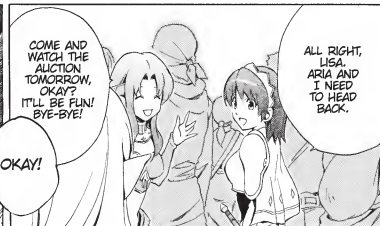
OH,
BY THE
WAY...
LISA,
HOW
OLD ARE
YOU?



CECILY,
LOOK!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?







THERE
YOU
ARE

YOU'RE
DONE?
GOOD.

SORRY
TO KEEP
YOU
WAITING

I'M
SORRY
WE
TOOK SO
LONG.

LOOK!

LET'S
GO.

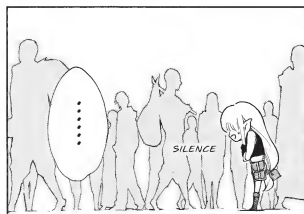
RIGHT.

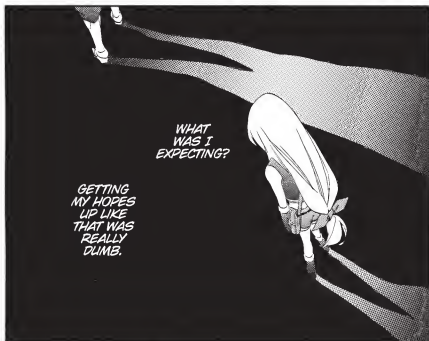
SURE.

OH!
AND THANK
YOU FOR
LENDING ME
THE MONEY
FOR THIS!

RIGHT.

I'LL TAKE
REAL
GOOD CARE
OF THIS
OUTFIT!





WHAT
WAS I
EXPECTING?

GETTING
MY HOPES
UP LIKE
THAT WAS
REALLY
DUMB.

STUPID
ME.



I'M
JUST
A--



I
MEAN,
AFTER
ALL...

I KNOW
LUKE WOULD
NEVER SAY
ANYTHING
LIKE,
"YOU LOOK
CLUTE,"
TO ME.





I HAD
ENTIRELY
TOO MUCH
TIME ON
MY HANDS,
WAITING
FOR YOU
LOT.



LUKE
....!



**I'LL
TAKE
REAL
GOOD
CARE
OF IT!**



**BUT JUST
THIS ONCE,
I WANNA
BE HAPPY
WITH WHAT
I HAVE.**

**I STILL
THINK IT
ISN'T RIGHT
FOR ME
TO EXPECT
ANYTHING...**

THE NEXT DAY...

OH, HEY!
THE
AUCTION
IS ABOUT
TO
START!



A "DEMON
SWORD,"
EH? THAT
SOUNDS
INTERESTING!

LET'S
HURRY
TO THE
CENTRAL
PLAZA!

I HEARD
THE TOP
ITEM UP
FOR BID
THIS TIME
IS A
"DEMON
SWORD."



DEMON
SWORD...

WANT...





✧ *Lisa* ✧

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 鍛 冶



—TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME, NOW.



—I'LL MAKE TODAY A DAY
TO REMEMBER FOR YOU.



COME ON,
CECILY.
IT LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
OUR TURN
NOW!



YOU FRET
YOURSELF
TOO MUCH,
CECILY.

THAT'S
BECAUSE
YOU DON'T
THINK
ABOUT
THINGS
ENOUGH,
CAPTAIN!

IF ANY BAD
GUYS SHOW UP,
WE'LL JUST
CRUSH THEM
WHERE THEY
STAND!

SH,
COME
ON!

HOLSMAN,
CENTRAL
PLAZA.



HUZZAAAAAH

ア ア ア

Part 1

Chapter

5

Sword

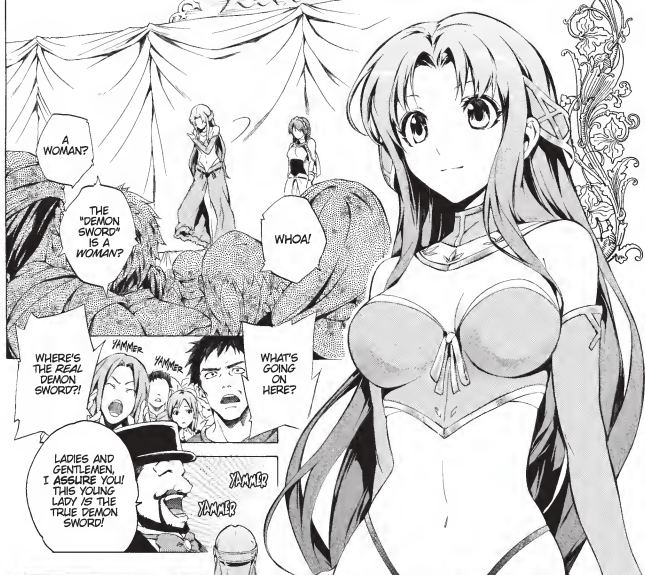
(Part 1)

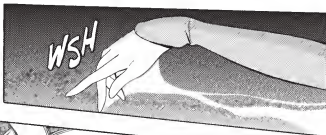
THE
DEMON
SWORD,
ARIA!!

AND NOW,
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN,
WHAT
YOU HAVE
ALL BEEN
WAITING
FOR...

YE
GOOS!

YEEAH





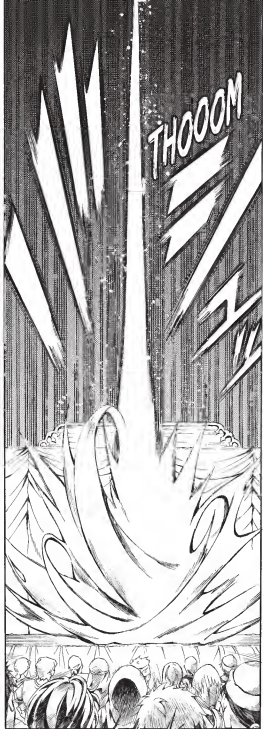
BRUSH
THE
SLEEP
FROM
YOUR
EYES.

FWSH
K
K
K



REACH
FOR THE
TRUTH.

HOLD
THE
WIND IN
THESE
HANDS...



**KILL
GOD.**





AMAZ-
ING!

WHAT
?!

THAT LADY
TURNED
INTO A
SWORD?!

YAAAY

YAAAY

WELL, NO
WONDER.
SO THAT'S
WHAT IT
MEANT.

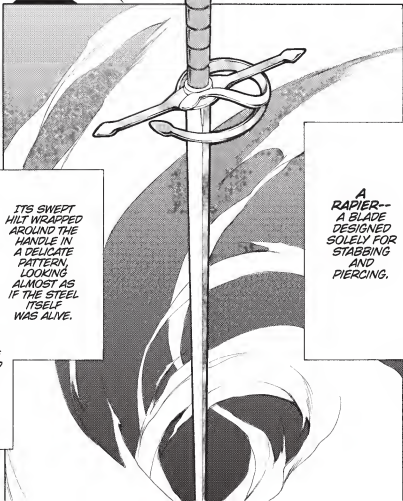
YAAAAAY

A
"DEMON
SWORD"
EH?



ITS SWEEP
HILT WRAPPED
AROUND THE
HANDLE IN
A DELICATE
PATTERN,
LOOKING
ALMOST AS
IF THE STEEL
ITSELF
WAS ALIVE.

IN CONTRAST,
THE SIMPLE
CROSS-SHAPE
OF THE SWORD
AS A WHOLE
GAVE OFF
A NEARLY
MYSTICAL
AIRA.



A
RAPIER--
A BLADE
DESIGNED
SOLELY FOR
STABBING
AND
PIERCING.



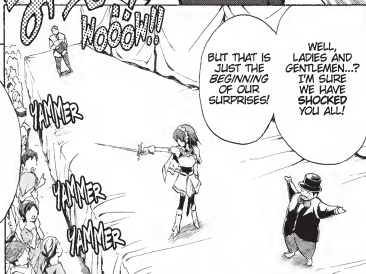
BA-DAAN

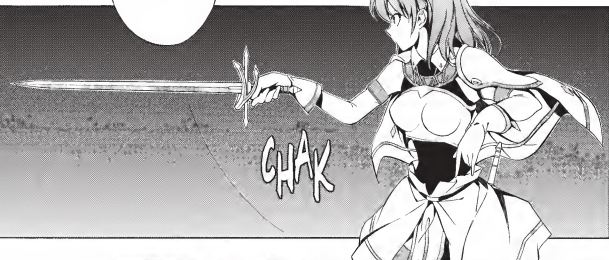
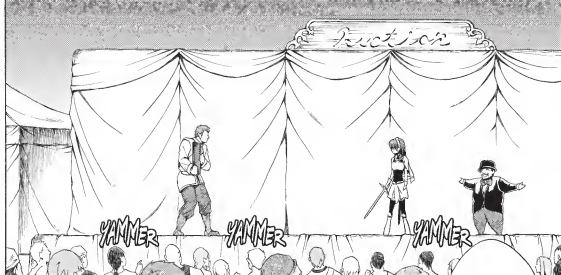
WOOO!!

BUT THAT IS
JUST THE
BEGINNING
OF OUR
SURPRISES!

WELL,
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN...?
I'M SURE
WE HAVE
SHOCKED
YOU ALL!

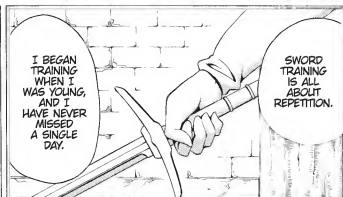
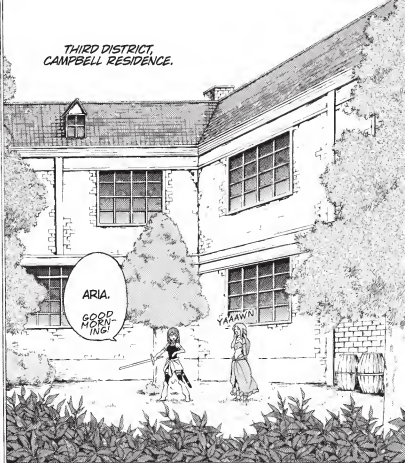
HERE
WE HAVE
A SOLID
STEEL
PLATE.





MY, MY!
YOU ARE WORKING
UP QUITE A SWEAT
THIS EARLY IN
THE MORNING,
CECILY.



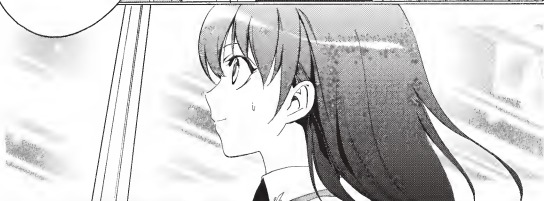




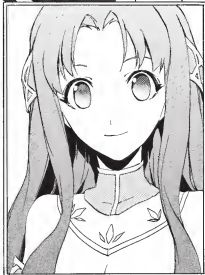
AND
IN TURN,
THE BLADE
LENDS
YOU THE
STRENGTH
TO PROTECT
THE CITY.

A TRUE
SWORDS-
WOMAN
WILL NEVER
NEGLECT
HER
TRAINING.

THAT
SHOWS
RESPECT
FOR THE
BLADE.



YES.
AND THIS
IS SUCH
A NICE
CITY,
TOO.





NO
MATTER
WHERE YOU
WALK, YOU
WOON'T FIND
THE SCENT
OF DEATH.
IT'S BEAUTI-
FUL.



THANKS
TO YOU
AND YOUR
KNIGHT
GUARD,
THE CITY
IS SAFE.



CITIES
WHERE
IT'S NOT
UNUSUAL TO
SEE MORE
DEAD IN THE
STREETS
THAN THE
LIVING.



THERE
ARE
CITIES
THAT
DO.

OF COURSE
YOU WON'T.
YOU CAN'T
LET CORPSES
LAY STREWN
ABOUT IN THE
STREETS!



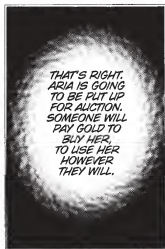
I HAVE
SEEN
THEM...



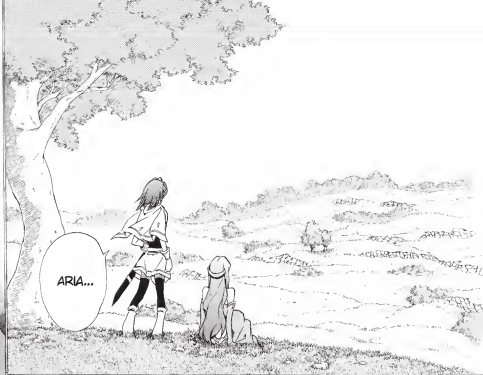
BECAUSE
YOU,
CECILY, ARE
SOMEONE
WHO FIGHTS
ONLY TO
PROTECT
OTHERS.

AND I'M
VERY GLAD
THAT YOU
WILL GET TO
WIELD ME,
EVEN JUST
ONCE.

I'M
GLAD I
COULD
COME
HERE.



THAT'S RIGHT.
ARIA IS GOING
TO BE PUT UP
FOR AUCTION.
SOMEONE WILL
PAY GOLD TO
BUY HER,
TO USE HER
HOWEVER
THEY WILL.



ARIA...



I WAS
BORN ON A
BATTLEFIELD,
YOU KNOW.



THAT'S
ALMOST...
SLAVERY!

MY FIRST
MEMORIES ARE
OF STANDING,
STABBED INTO
THE GROUND
AS A SWORD,
IN THE
MIDDLE OF A
BATTLEFIELD.

I WAS
BORN IN
THE MIDST
OF THE
VALBANILL
WAR.



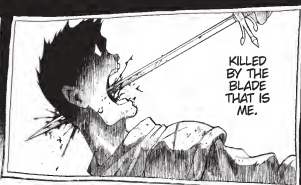
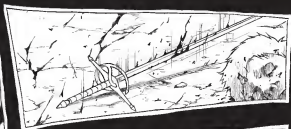
HN?

THAT
MEANS
WHAT
YOU
THINK IT
DOES.

I TOLD YOU
I WAS
BETWEEN
FORTY
AND FIFTY
YEARS OLD,
REMEMBER?











BE MY
FRIEND,
ARIA.
I LIKE
YOU!

SO CAN'T
WE BE
FRIENDS?

NO...



MY...

THAT
SOUNDED
AN AWFUL
LOT LIKE A
CONFESSION
OF LOVE.



BLU
H





ARE
YOU
SURE
YOU
WANT...
ME?

CAN
SHE
REALLY
MEAN
IT...?



A KNIGHT
NEVER
GOES
BACK ON
HER WORD.



I'M SURE
MY WIND
WILL BLOW
MORE
PURELY...

MY
BLOOD-SOAKED
PAST WILL
NEVER TRULY
DISAPPEAR...
NOR WILL MY
DESTINY AS
A WEAPON.

BUT...

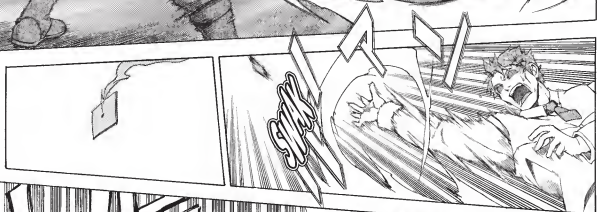
IF IT IS
YOUR HAND
THAT
HOLDS ME,
CECILY...





AND MORE
POWERFUL
THAN
EVER!

FWOOSH











WHAT
THE
HELL IS
THAT?!

BWOOOSH

AAAAAAHH!!

RUUUUN!!

AAAAAH

ALL
RIGHT,
MEN!

FOLLOW
THE ORDERS
I HANDED
OUT EARLIER!
PRIESTS,
USE
PRAYER
FACTS TO
FENCE THAT
THING IN!

KNIGHTS,
SHEPHERD
THE
CIVILIANS
TO
SAFETY!

SIR!

SM
RX

HEH.

ONCE MY
MEN SEAL
OFF YOUR
ESCAPE
ROUTES,
I WILL
SNUFF YOU
LIKE A DYING
CAMPFIRE!

I KNEW
YOU WOULD
COME,
DEMON
SCUM.

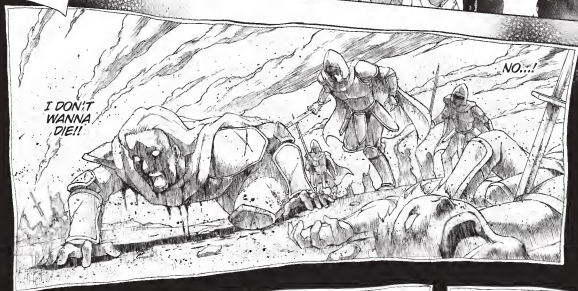
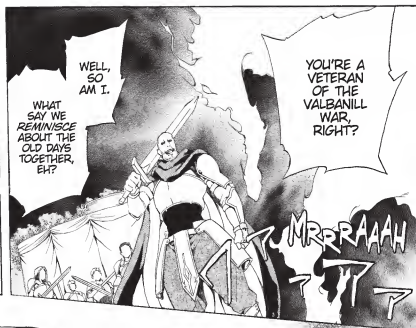
KRANK

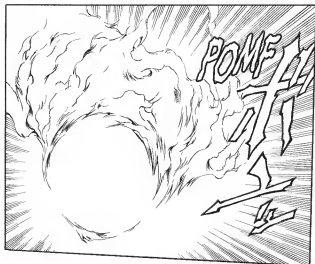
KRANK



AAAAH...
THIS
REMINDS
ME OF
THE OLD
DAYS
IN THE
WAR.

THUNDER







A
DEMON
THAT
CAN
BIRTH
NEW
DEMONS
?!

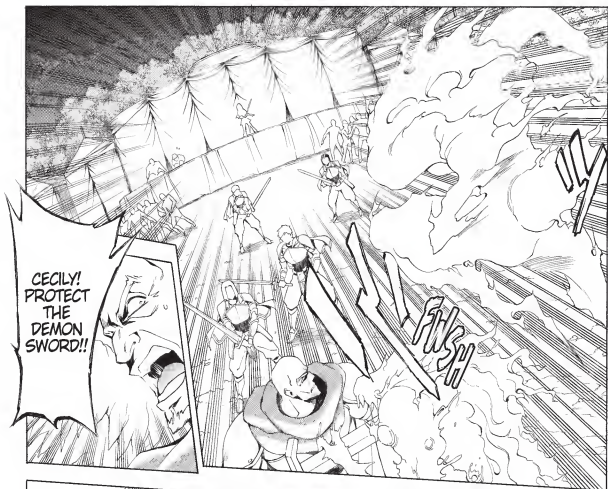


DAMNATION!



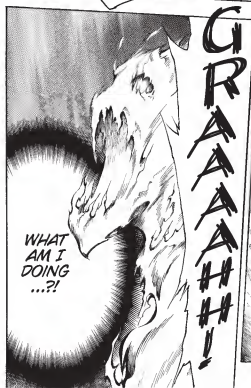
HNNRGH!!

HSSSSSS





EEP!



WHAT
AM I
DOING
...?!

GAH...



DEMON
SWORD

BUT
WHAT...?

I WAS
SUPPOSED
TO DO
SOMETHING...

I...
I CAN'T
REMEMBER.

DO SO,
AND
I WILL
SAVE
YOU.

THAT'S RIGHT!
THE DEMON
SWORD!

BRING
ME THE
DEMON
SWORD!



YEEP!



ARIA!

WSH
I
I

ARIA
--!!!







NO...
NO...!

...
!!!

AAIGH!!



AAA-
AAA-
AAA-
HHH
!!!
...



✧ *Aria* ✧

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 鍛 冶



Chapter

6

Sword

(Part 2)



**HELP
ME!!**

CECILY!



PULL
BACK!
PULL
BACK!!

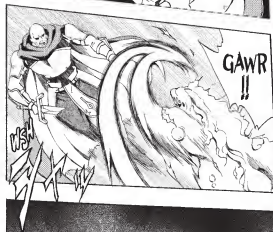
YIKES!

HOLY
CRAP!
NOW
THE FIRE
DEMON
HAS A
WIND
SWORD!

CAP-
TAIN
--!!

FNOOOOSH

AAAIIIGH
!!



PATHETIC!

I THOUGHT
I HAD IT
BEAT, BUT
YET AGAIN,
ALL I CAN
DO IS
STARE IN
HORROR...

I WAS
SO NAIVE.

CAN'T I
SAVE
THEM?
ANY OF
THEM?

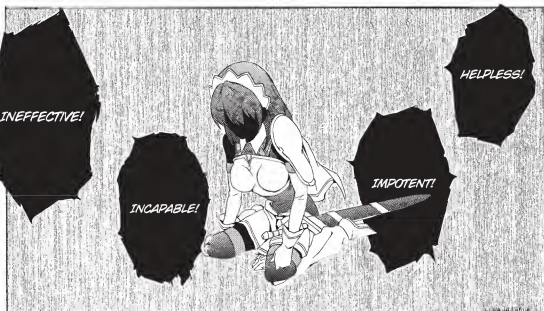
AND
ARIA...

NO...

THAT POOR
VAGRANT.
HE WAS
PERSECUTED
SIMPLY
BECAUSE
HE WAS A
SURVIVOR
OF THE WAR.

THE INNOCENT
CITIZENS.
THEY WERE
JUST HERE FOR
AN AUCTION,
BUT NOW THEY'RE
BEING BURNED
ALIVE BY THAT
DEMON.



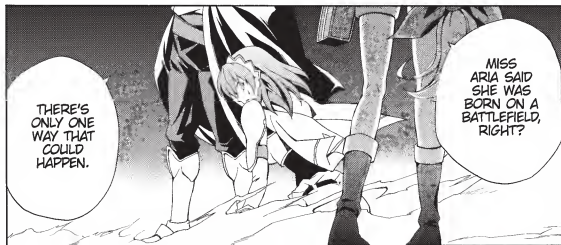






THERE IS
NO SUCH
THING AS
A "DEMON
SWORD."

THAT
WOMAN IS
A SIMPLE
DEMON,
JUST LIKE
ALL THE
REST OF
THEM.



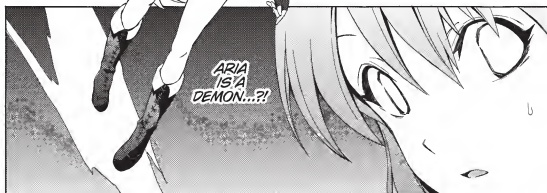
THERE'S
ONLY ONE
WAY THAT
COULD
HAPPEN.

MISS
ARIA SAID
SHE WAS
BORN ON A
BATTLEFIELD,
RIGHT?



SHE JUST
HAPPENS TO
BE ONE THAT
HAS THE
ABILITY TO
TURN INTO A
SWORD.

SHE IS A
DEMON,
SUMMONED
DURING THE
WAR, WHEN
A HUMAN
OFFERED HIS
FLESH AND
BLOOD TO HER
THROUGH A
DEMON PACT.



ARIA
IS A
DEMON...?!

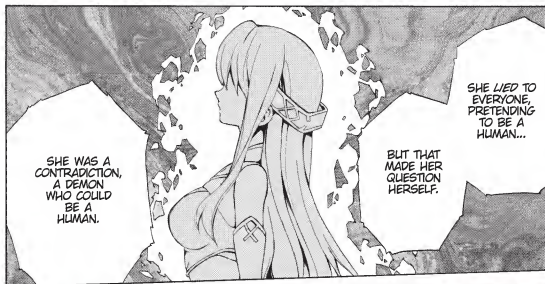


MISS
ARIA
KNEW
WHAT
SHE
WAS.

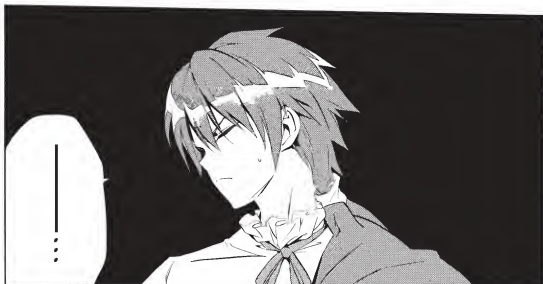


LISA...?











!

ALL
RIGHT.

UGH!
THIS IS
A WHIM
ON MY
PART.

NOTHING
BUT A
WHIM!
IT WILL
NOT
HAPPEN
AGAIN,
UNDER-
STAND?!

I'LL DO IT,
ALREADY.
WILL THAT
MAKE YOU
HAPPY?!



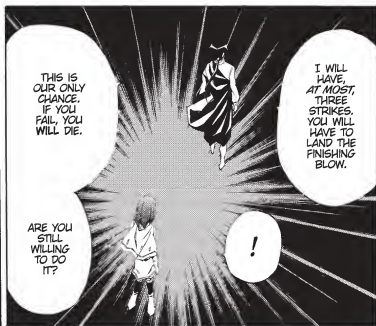
REMEMBER
WHAT
YOU SAW
DURING THE
EXCURSION?

THE BLADES
I FORGE
IN THIS
FASHION ARE
EXCEEDINGLY
BRITTLE.



THANK
YOU,
LUKE!

GET UP!
I'M
SICK OF
LOOKING
DOWN
AT YOU.













WAIT, THIS
ISN'T LIKE
THE ONE HE
MADE BEFORE.
THIS ONE ISN'T
WREATHED
IN FLAME...
IT'S WREATHED
IN WIND!



LISA...



YES. THIS
FIREBALL
IS MY
POWER.



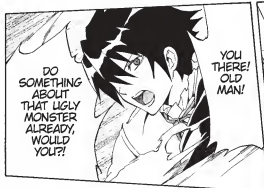
"I UNDERSTAND
WHAT KIND
OF PAIN SHE
HAS TO BE
FEELING!"

"IS IT
REALLY
OKAY FOR
ME TO
DRESS UP
LIKE
NORMAL
GIRLS?"

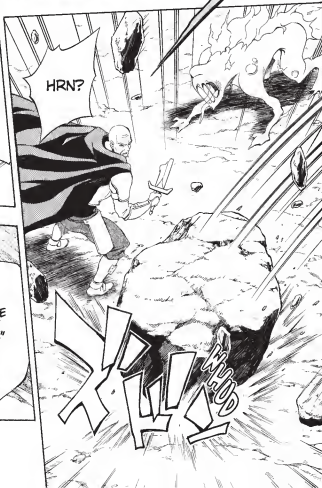
"BY THE
WAY,
LISA CAN
SPEAK
WITH
ANIMALS."

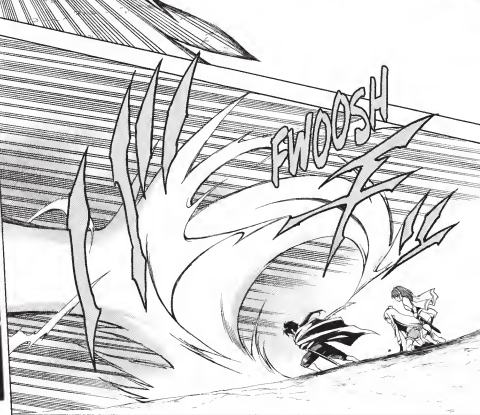
I'M A
DEMON,
TOO.

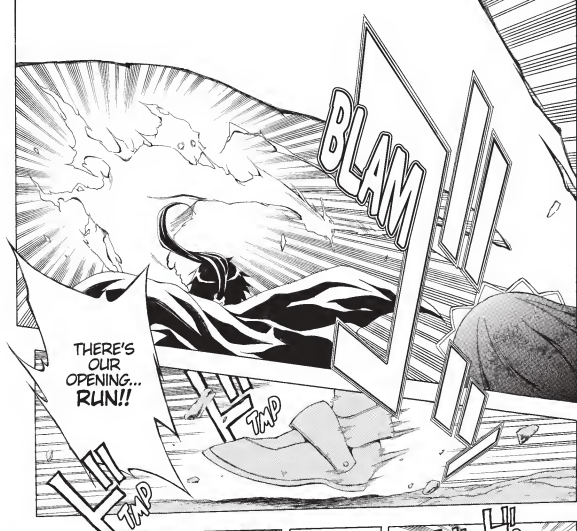


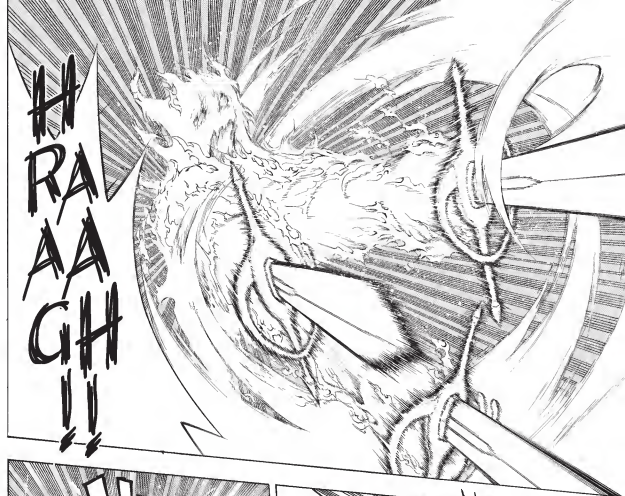


YOU
THERE!
OLD
MAN!

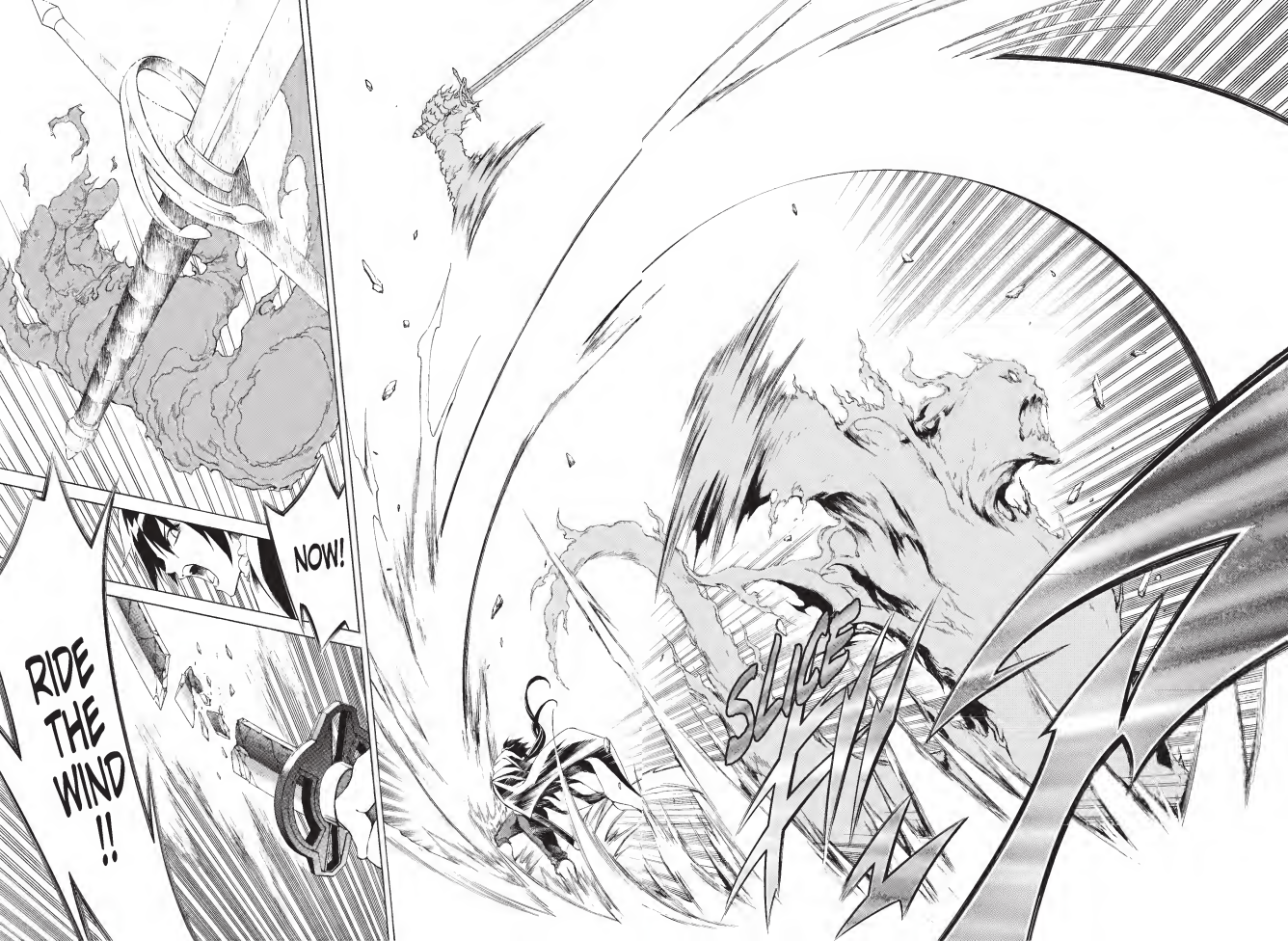












NOW!

RIDE
THE
WIND
!!

SLICE
X



AND I
WILL HOLD
IT OUT
UNTIL YOU
TAKE IT!

I WILL
MAKE MY
HAND REACH,
EVEN IF I
HAVE TO
BREAK IT!







AAAAARGH—

!!!

PSHUUU



GRAB



AH
...?



AAAA-
AHH!!

CECILY!

NOW!!

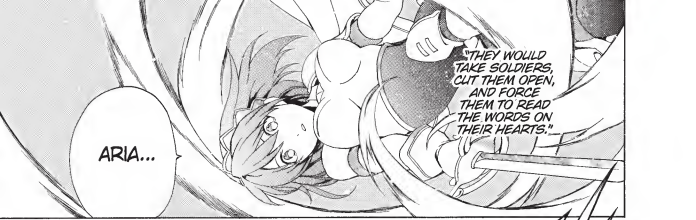
ARIA!!

LOOSE
THE
GALE!!



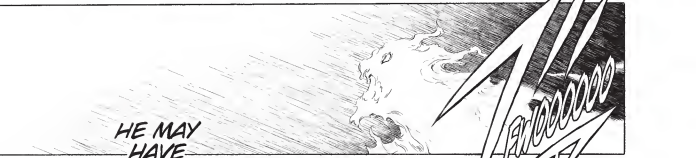
WHY...?
WHY WILL
NO ONE
SAVE
ME?





ARIA...

"THEY WOULD
TAKE SOLDIERS,
CUT THEM OPEN,
AND FORCE
THEM TO READ
THE WORDS ON
THEIR HEARTS."



HE MAY
HAVE
TURNED
HIMSELF
INTO A
DEMON...

AAAAAAAAA

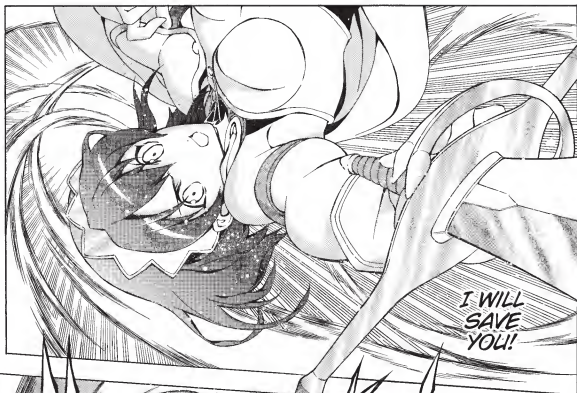


**BLIT WE
ARE
GOING
TO
SAVE
HIM!!**

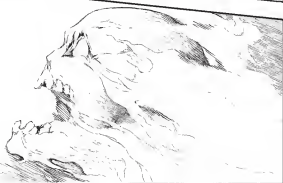


The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 鍛 冶



**I WILL SAVE
EVERYTHING
THESE HANDS
OF MINE
CAN REACH!!**



IT MAY BE AN IDEALISTIC ROAD,
BUT I WILL PROUDLY FOLLOW IT,
WHEREVER IT MAY LEAD!





Chapter

7

Sword

----- (Part 3)



YOU
AREN'T A
WEAPON
OF
MURDER
ANY
LONGER.

ARIA.



YOU
FOUGHT
TO SAVE
A LIFE,
NOT TO
TAKE IT.



CECILY...

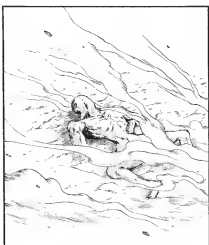
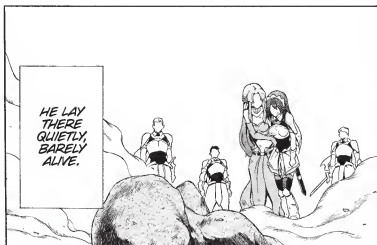


CECILY!





HE LAY
THERE
QUIETLY,
BARELY
ALIVE.

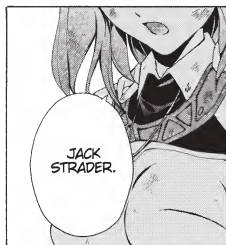
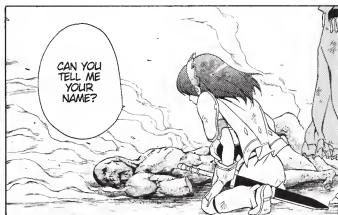
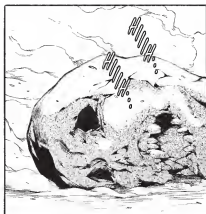


HE HAD
TAKEN THE
BRUNT OF
THE SILVER
WIND THAT
ARIA HAD
CONJURED...

AND IT
HAD
STRIPPED
THE
DEMONIC
FLAMES
FROM HIM.

ALL THAT
REMAINED
WAS HIS
EMACIATED
AND ALL-
TOO-
HUMAN
BODY.





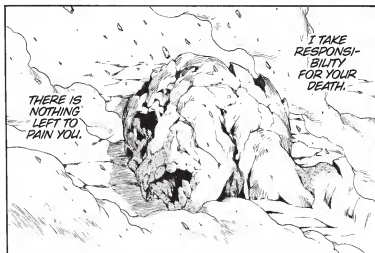


DO
NOT
FORGET
MY
NAME.



MY
NAME IS
CECILY
CAMPBELL.

I AM
THE ONE
WHO
KILLED
YOU.

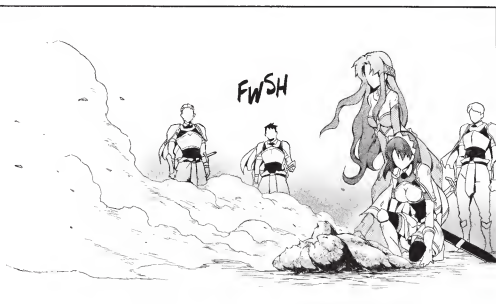


THERE IS
NOTHING
LEFT TO
PAIN YOU.

I TAKE
RESPONSIB-
ILITY
FOR YOUR
DEATH.



I SWEAR
I WILL
REMEMBER
YOURS
FOR THE
REST OF
MY LIFE.



FWSH



REST
IN
PEACE.



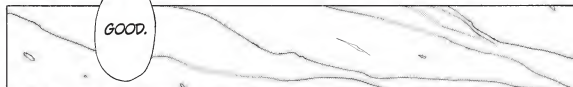
I'LL
HEAR
THEM.



THE WIND
TOLD ME
HIS LAST
WORDS.

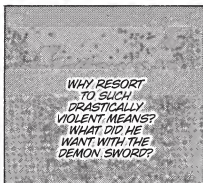


HE SAID...
HE WILL
NEVER
FORGET.

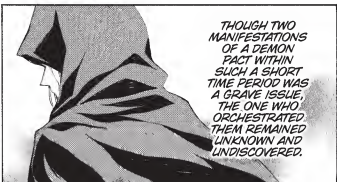


GOOD.

AND SO, THE TERRIBLE INCIDENT CAME TO A CLOSE,
AFTER CLAIMING THE LIVES OF 17 CIVILIANS AND 22 KNIGHTS.



WHY RESORT
TO SUCH
DRASTICALLY
VIOLENT MEANS?
WHAT DID HE
WANT, WITH THE
DEMON SWORD?

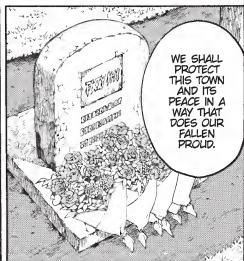
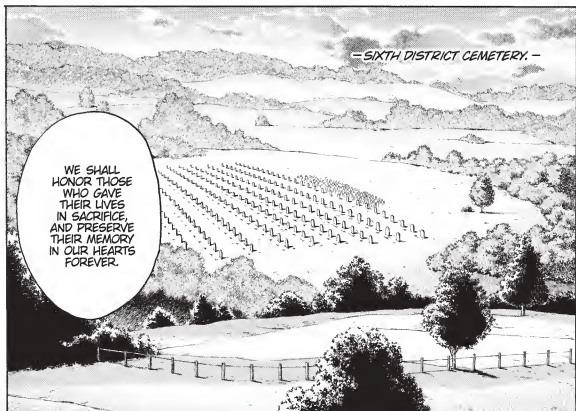


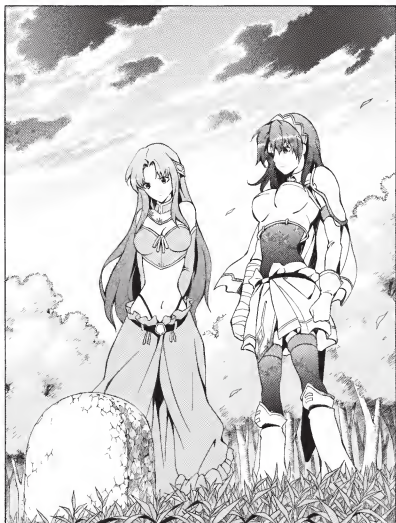
THOUGH TWO
MANIFESTATIONS
OF A DEMON
PACT WITHIN
SUCH A SHORT
TIME PERIOD WAS
A GRAVE ISSUE,
THE ONE WHO
ORCHESTRATED
THEM REMAINED
UNKNOWN AND
UNDISCOVERED.

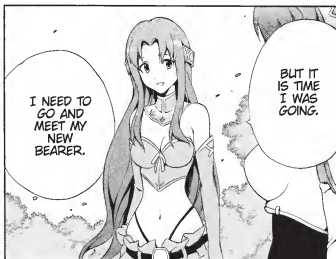
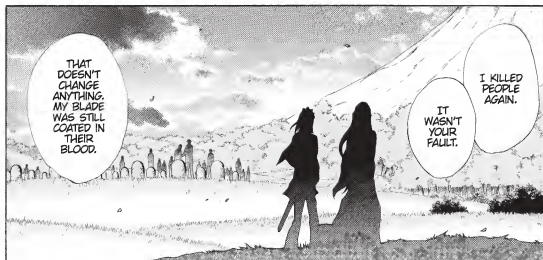


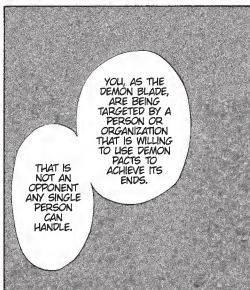
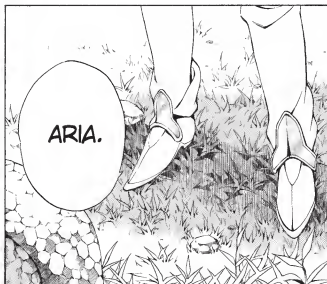
BUT THE PALL
OF GRIEF THAT
HAD FALLEN
OVER THE CITY
QUICKLY BEGAN
TO FADE,
AS THE
BUSTLE OF
EVERYDAY LIFE
REASSERTED
ITSELF.

EVEN NOW,
WHAT
HAPPENED
STILL HAS
THE KNIGHT
GUARD ON
EDGE.

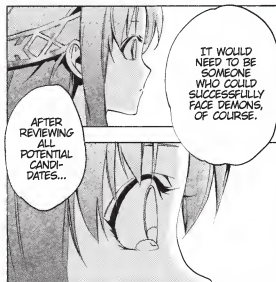














REALLY
...?

APPARENTLY,
MY ROLE IN
DEFEATING
THE FIRE
DEMON WAS
WELL-
REGARDED.

THEY
CHOSE
ME.



YOU ARE
A SWORD
MEANT TO
PROTECT
PEOPLE.

YOU ARE
NOT A
SWORD
MEANT FOR
KILLING
PEOPLE.

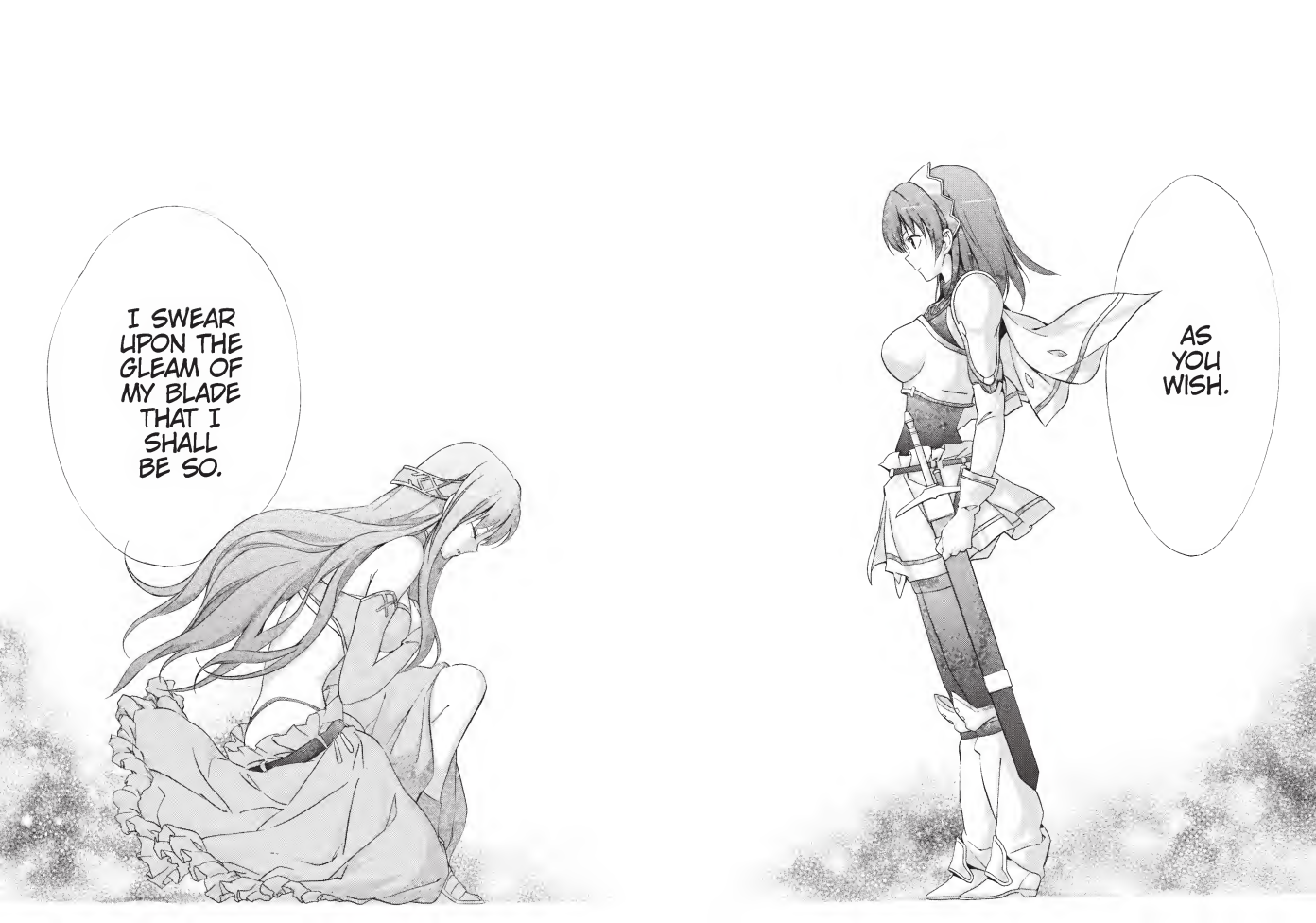
ARIA.



BE MY
PARTNER!

ARIA...





I SWEAR
UPON THE
GLEAM OF
MY BLADE
THAT I
SHALL
BE SO.

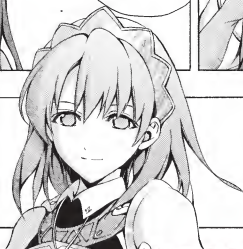
AS
YOU
WISH.



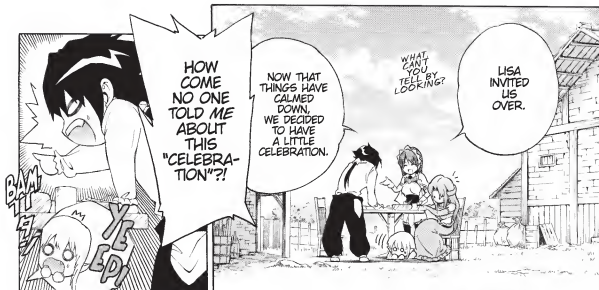
AND A
SWORD
NEVER
GOES
BACK ON
HER
WORD!



I
KNOW.







ALSO,
ARIA WILL NOT
ALWAYS BE IN
THE FORM
OF A RAPIER.
IT IS ONLY
PRUDENT THAT
I HAVE A
SPARE HANDY,
ONE I HOPE
YOU MAKE
FOR ME...

YES.
LISA IS MY
FRIEND,
AND I LIKE
VISITING
WITH MY
FRIENDS.

BESIDES,
I STILL
FIND THE
BLADES
YOU FORGE
SPECIAL.

PAID BY
INSTALL-
MENTS!

WHY DID
YOU
HAVE TO
BRING
UP MY
CHEST?!

WH-
WHAT
?!

ITS
LEWD

HEH
HEH
HEH!

HMPH.
YOU TRULY
ARE
SHAMELESS,
CECILY
CAMPBELL.

AND
DON'T
PUFF UP
YOUR
CHEST IN
PRIDE.

IT MAKES
YOUR BUST
LOOK
EVEN MORE
RIDICULOUS

AWA
HA
HA
HA!

D-D-
DRAW
YOUR
BLADE!

FACE
ME,
YOU
LUST
FIEND!

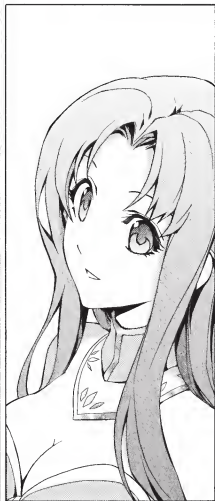
SHING

YES,
YOUR
BUST IS
DECIDEDLY
LEWD.



IS THAT
WHERE
YOU
ARE?

To be continued...



*BLAIR
VOLCANO...*



✧ *Hannibal Quasar* ✧

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 鍛 冶



Lisa's

Let's Learn Blacksmithing Corner!

Wow! There sure were some exciting developments in *The Sacred Blacksmith* Volume 2! I hope you enjoyed reading it.

Today, I, Lisa, will continue this humble little class to show you more about the amazing world of blacksmithing! As I mentioned last time, this will be the second of a 2-part class on the making of a katana!

Class #2: Making A Katana ~Part 2~

To make a sword both strong and beautiful.

The swords that Luke forges are unlike the blades that Cecily and the other knights carry. Called a "katana," it has a unique curve and edge. As mentioned in the first class, the "katana" in this story are modeled after the real-world Japanese katana. The strength of a katana comes from being constructed of two different types of steel, which gives it the hardness to hold a sharp edge, and the flexibility to resist breaking. But that's not all that makes them great!



Japanese katana are created not just for their use as a weapon, but also for their beauty as a work of art.

The final stage in the process of creating them, when the blade is sharpened, is critical in bringing out its beauty. This stage is called the "polishing" stage. This stage is, in fact, separated into multiple steps, each followed with exacting

precision. So to last time's catchphrase of "It never bends, it never breaks, and it's extremely sharp," we add this class' keyword: "It's also beautiful"! All of these together form the work of art that is the traditional Japanese katana!

In our last class, we covered the stages of forging jewel steel into the basic shape of a blade, and then using a special heating and quenching process to give the blade its distinctive curve. Today, let's move on to the next step in the process.



You know how Luke chants all those steps when he's forging a blade? Ever wonder what's actually being done in those stages? Turn the page, and I'll explain! ♪

GO!

To Make the Greatest Sword!!

Doing this gives the blade a clear light and dark contrast. This is where various modern and classical styles, as well as the polisher's own personal touch come into play.



During the nugui step, the wavy "hamon" pattern on the blade's edge is darkened. The hadori step is designed to lighten it back up and to make it look neater. A mixture of hazuya stone chips and uchigumori stone chips in oil is carefully wiped along the line of the hamon, to make it stand out.

5 Hadori

In this step, the blade is polished using cotton balls and paper dipped in a mixture of oil and metal chips from when the blade was first forged. It got the name "nugui" from the Japanese word "to wipe" (nuguu), because it looks like the polisher is simply wiping the blade. This step gives the blade its shine, though if you aren't careful, you could wind up making it as shiny and reflective as a mirror!

4
Nugui

Those are the three major steps in making a katana. Today, we're looking at the final step.



The 3-Step Forging Process

- 1. Assemble the correct steels**

- ## 2. Forge the steels

- ### 3. Shape the blade

It's
beau-
tiful!! + It doesn't
break!
It doesn't
bend!
It's super
sharp!

Part
2

How To Forge A Japanese Katana

Every step of the katana forging process is followed with exacting precision. Now that the basic shape of the blade is done, it's time to work on the detail! 🎵

After all the many sharpening and polishing steps are done, the maker deliberately adds some scratches to either the tip or the base of the blade as his "signature." Mess this up and it's all the way back to the Koma-nagura stage, so it's a really nerve-wracking step!

And with that, the hilt, tsuba, and other things which make the blade easy to hold and use are added, and the katana is finished!

∞ Engraving

Hazuya stone is used to polish the tip area to a light shine. The polisher needs to have perfectly steady hands to smooth out any rough patches and give the tip a bright white finish.

Tip Polish

A slim, round metal rod about 15cm long is used to polish the ridge and sides of the blade. This gives the katana its unique dark shine.

6 Polishing



Foundation polishing neatens the basic geometry of the blade, and involves the use of multiple types of polishing stones. Soft stones are used at first, progressing to harder and harder stones.

2 Polishing

Now that the base blade is forged, the smith will adjust the finer details of its shape until he is satisfied. This is the stage where the general condition of the blade is examined, and how the polishing steps will proceed is determined. The blade's curve is neatened, the edge is very roughly sharpened, and any scrapes or imperfections on the blade are hammered out.

1 Kaji-Oshi

These are the stones used, in order from the roughest to the finest grade. If you mess up in the middle of polishing you've gotta go *all* the way back to the beginning, so polishers concentrate *real hard* on what they're doing!



There are two types of uchigumori stone: uchigumori-hado to polish the edge, and uchigumori-jido to polish the rest of the blade. Both are the same grade.

Of all the polishing stones that are cut from nagura stones, this one has the finest grade.

From binsui to this stone, the polisher is still setting the general shape of the surface.

This stone is used to remove the marks made on the blade by the binsui stone.

The first stone used in polishing

Final Polish

In this stage, the jigane (the bulk of the blade that has yet to be polished) and the hamon (the wavy pattern on the edge, made when the blade was clay-coated and heated) are polished. Jizuya stone is used to polish the jigane, and hazuya stone to polish the hamon.

Hazuya

These are actually very fine chips of uchigumori stone.

jizuya

These are often fine chips of narutaki stone but some polishing styles crush those chips further into 1mm pieces. Those are called kudaki-jizuya.



Now I get it! With all that work that goes into Luke's katana, it's no wonder they're both beautiful and hard to break!



There's a forging scene in this very volume, so now that you know what goes on in each stage of the process, it could be interesting to go back and re-read that section with a new understanding!

So far, I've given a really general explanation of how katana are made, but did you know that there's a bunch of specific terms used just for the parts of a katana's blade? As an extra bonus to today's class, let's go over the parts of a katana and their names. Onwards we go!

**GO
GO!!**



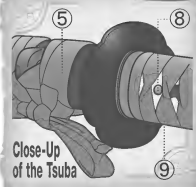
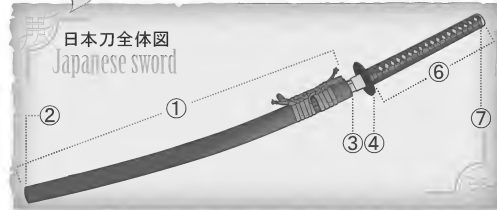
Katana: A List of Terms

There are so many different, specific names, like "hamon" and "shinogi," used for the parts of a katana that it can be really confusing. We will use diagrams to give you a quick idea of what the different parts of a katana are called.

A Well-Known Vocabulary?

During the "How to Forge A Japanese Katana" class, several unique names related to specific parts of a katana were mentioned. Some of them probably sounded familiar. Several of them have found their way into commonly used Japanese sayings. Below, we will explain not only the terms themselves, but some of the sayings that have come from them.

The numbers in the explanation match up with the numbers in the diagrams. Look for the * mark to read about well-known katana-related sayings!



Close-Up of the Tsuba

⑩ 拵 (Tsuka)

Part of the tsuka, it is the metal part that presses the tsuka (hilt) firmly to the saya (sheath).

* 段打ひきの (Dagata tsukuri)

"To be packed to the hilt." This saying comes from the image of a well-made soppa, which holds the katana in its sheath snugly, with no rattling.

⑥ 拵 (Tsuka)

⑦ 拵 / 拵 (Tsuka-kashira)

⑧ 拵 (Tsuka)

The metal cap at the end of the tsuka.

* 血抜剣通し (Munekiri-dōshi)

"Main street." The menuki is a decorative, yet important part of a katana. It came to be used to describe high-traffic, yet fancy town districts or streets.

⑨ 拵 (Tsuka)

The wrapping around the tsuka. It is usually not cloth, but the hide of a salmon shark.

① 拵 (Saya)

② 拵 / 小拵 (Kobai)

The butt-end of the saya. Also the name of any decorative cap added there.

③ 口 (Kuchi)

The mouth of the saya. The phrase "Kokuchi wo kuru" (to cut the ko's mouth) actually means loosening the katana from the kokuchi, making it easier to draw.

④ 鐔 (Tsuba)

The oval guard, set between the base of the blade and the top of the hilt, to protect the hand.

* 拵の争い (Tsuka arai)

"To lock swords." From when two people clash blades by their hilts, leading to pushing back and forth. Means intense competition.

⑩ 切先 (Kissai)

⑨ 拵 (Tsuka)

⑪ 拵 (Tsuka)

The pattern on the blade, made during the clay-coat and firing step. This pattern determines where the white portion of the edge begins.

⑫ 拵 (Shinogi)

The line that runs the length of the blade, between the edge and the ridge.

* 拵 (Shinogi wo kezuru)

"To compete ruthlessly." When dueling katana to katana, you block with the shinogi, not the edge of the blade. In a stiff fight, these parts will scrape together often, leading to a phrase that means competing roughly.

⑭ 反り (Sori)

The part of the blade that curved during quenching.

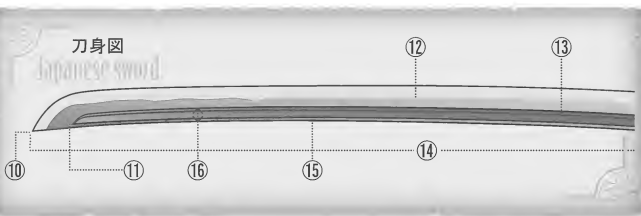
⑮ 拵 (Mura)

The un-sharpened side of the blade.

⑯ 拵 (Shinobori)

The space between the shinogi and the mune.

刀身図



There's lots more sayings that come from the katana!

* 刀身を切る (Katana o kiru)

"Showing one's true (ugly) character." Polishing a katana too much will reveal its ugly jigane core. Accordingly, this came to be a euphemism for unmasking someone's unsavory character.

* 刀身を切る (Katana o kiru)

"A blunt blade." This happens when a blade isn't fired long enough, giving it a poor edge. It means a person who is only half-trained, or is lazy and unambitious. "Not the sharpest knife in the drawer."

* 焼きがまわる (Yaki ga mawaru)

"To lose your edge." Conversely, firing a blade will give it a bad edge. Thus, the saying means to grow so old, you lose your skill.

* 付け焼き刃 (Tsukoyake yatai)

"A thin veneer." Covering a blade with a shiny steel edge barely makes it useable. That led to this saying, which means that something has been jerry-rigged, thus it only barely passes muster.

So, as you can see, even the tiniest parts of a katana have their own special names. Some of them were undoubtedly new, but others were probably familiar, thanks to well-known sayings. I hope that the two How-To classes and this lesson in katana vocabulary have given you a better idea about the Japanese katana, and what's so cool about them!

But remember, there's a lot more to the world of swords than what we've talked about here! The story of *The Sacred Blacksmith* will see lots more different swords show up, like the western two-edged sword that Miss Cecily first used, or rapiers like Miss Aria!

Next time, we'll talk more about the various kinds of swords that are out there. Hope to see you then!!

See You Next Time!





A Lazy Afterword



**DQ9 Addict
NAKAMURA-SAN**



**He Who Wants To
Nap In The Grass
YAMADA-SAN**

<http://www.yamadakotaro.com>



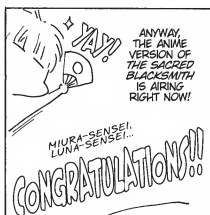
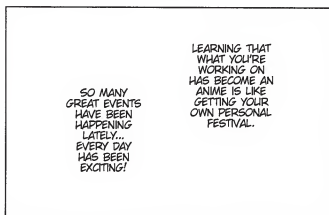
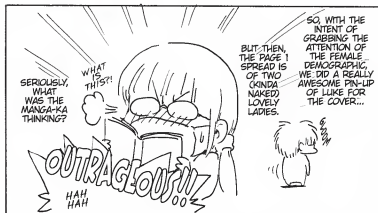
**(Still)
Lover of Rice
YOSHINO-SAN**



**Craftsman
SUGANUMA-SAN**



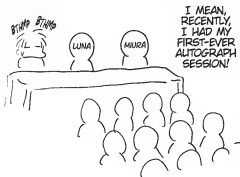
**Judo Master
MURAYAMA-SAN**



AND IN THE FREE
TIME WE HAD AFTER
THE SESSION,
THE THREE OF US
GOT TOGETHER,
FENCING AND
MESSING AROUND.



IT'S SO
AMAZING TO
BE ABLE TO
SEE THE
FACES OF
THE PEOPLE
WHO READ
YOUR WORK!
JUST
LOOKING AT
EVERYONE
GAVE ME
SO MUCH
INSPIRATION.
THANK YOU
ALL FOR
COMING!



I MEAN,
RECENTLY,
I HAD MY
FIRST-EVER
AUTOGRAPH
SESSION!

ALL THE
VOICE
ACTORS
WERE SO
CHIPPER
AND
HAPPY.
IT FELT
GREAT
TO TALK
TO THEM.

Σ(ノノ) SNEK

I WISH
I COULD
HAVE YOU
AS AN
ADORABLE
BABY
BROTHER.



THE
MANGA
VERSION
OF LISA
IS SO
CUTE!

I EVEN GOT
TO CHAT
WITH LIKE'S
VOICE ACTOR,
OKAMOTO-
SAN,
AFTER THE
SESSION
WAS DONE.
CHEE HEH! ♪)

THE VOICES FOR
EACH CHARACTER
WERE SPOT-ON!
ALL I COULD DO
WAS SIT THERE,
GAPING, AS I
LISTENED TO IT
ALL COME
TOGETHER.

THEN WE WENT
TO A VOICE-OVER
SESSION FOR
THE ANIME.
WATCHING ALL
THE CHARACTERS
COME TO LIFE
WAS SIMPLY
INCREDIBLE!



AND NOW, THE MANGA FINALLY
MOVES INTO MATERIAL FROM
VOLUME 2 OF THE LIGHT NOVELS!
I'VE READ THROUGH IT, AND THERE
ARE SO MANY AMAZING PARTS
TO IT, I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO
START DRAWING THEM!

LEARN
SOMETHING
EVERY DAY.

I HOPE
YOU'RE
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO IT AS
MUCH
AS I AM.
SEE YOU
NEXT
VOLUME!



THE WAY
EVERYONE
WALKED,
THE WAY
THE DUST
AND SMOKE
WOULD
WAFT UP,
AND ALL THE
FIGHTING
MOVES WERE
BEAUTIFUL!

AND MANGLOBE
INC. DID A
BANG-UP JOB
ON THE ANIME.
THE FIGHT
SCENES WERE
SPECTACULAR!

THAT
WAS
SO
COOL!



I'M ALREADY
FAMILIAR WITH
THE MAIN GIST,
BUT SEEING IT
ALL GATHERED
TOGETHER
LIKE THAT
GAVE ME
SOME NEW
INSIGHTS.

I EVEN
GOT TO
GLANCE
THROUGH
THE
SCRIPT.



The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 鍛 冶

